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A Checklist of the Mammals of Alberta (Revised 1989)

Hugh C. Smith

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A CHECKLIST OF THE MAMMALS OF ALBERTA

(Revised 1989)

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INTRODUCTION

An update to Soper (1964), *The Mammals of Alberta*, listing changes in the nomenclature of mammals found in Alberta is given in Smith (1985), *A Checklist of Alberta Mammals*. Since 1985 a number of name changes have occurred and an additional species has been found in Alberta (Smith 1988). As the 1985 checklist is out-of-print, and there have been frequent requests for copies, this revised checklist has been prepared. In this current checklist, 91 species of mammals are recognized as having occurred in the recent past or do now occur in Alberta and for which a museum specimen record exists.

A checklist provides a ready reference to the mammals that occur in a region. As such, it is useful to both professional and amateur biologists and is especially helpful to students who may be just starting their study of mammals.

This checklist follows the arrangement of the previous checklist (Smith 1985). Jones et al. (1986) is used for scientific names and Smith (1985) for common English names. Explanations are provided where this checklist differs from Jones et al. (1986) and Smith (1985).

Jones et al. (1986) followed a taxonomic arrangement for the Order, Family, and Genus categories and an alphabetic arrangement at the Species level. In this checklist I follow a taxonomic arrangement for all categories.

Insectivora (Shrews)

Smith (1988) reported on the first occurrence of the Wandering Shrew (*Sorex vagrans*) in Alberta. The name *Sorex vagrans* was used by Soper (1964) for the Dusky Shrew (*Sorex monticolus*). Smith (1988) gives a brief account of the confusion in names applied to the *vagrans-monticolus* complex with respect to Alberta. Jones et al. (1986) used the

common name "Vagrant Shrew" for this species. I have followed van Zyll de Jong (1983) and have used the name "Wandering Shrew."

Rodents

In Smith (1985) it was pointed out that there was no consensus with respect to the number of families of rodents. The area of dispute that affects the classification of Alberta mammals pertains to the Cricetidae, Muridae, and Arvicolidae families. No recent studies have been published to shed any new light on this matter; hence, in this checklist, I am continuing to use Cricetidae for the New World mice and voles and Muridae for the Old World mice and rats.

Recent investigations into the phylogeny of chipmunks have shown that all chipmunks belong to the genus *Tamias* (Levenson et al. 1985, Nadler et al. 1985). I am, therefore, using the name *Tamias* in place of *Eutamias* for the chipmunks found in Alberta.

Jones et al. (1986) use the generic name *Lemmiscus* in place of *Lagurus* for the Sagebrush Vole. Because of a lack of recent research on this species, the argument to change species names is rather tenuous. I am, therefore, retaining the use of *Lagurus* for the Sagebrush Vole.

Carnivores

Jones et al. (1986) group all North American cats into the genus *Felis*. They do point out, however, that there is no consensus on the use of this name. In light of this, and until an in-depth revision of the family Felidae is undertaken, I have retained the name *Lynx* for the Canada Lynx and Bobcat.

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Class: Mammalia

Order: INSECTIVORA (Shrews)

Family: SORICIDAE

Sorex cinereus	Masked Shrew
Sorex haydeni	Prairie Shrew
Sorex monticolus	Dusky Shrew
Sorex vagrans	Wandering Shrew
Sorex palustris	Water Shrew
Sorex arcticus	Arctic Shrew
Sorex hoyi	Pygmy Shrew

Order: CHIROPTERA (Bats)

Family: VESPERTILIONIDAE

Myotis lucifugus	Little Brown Bat
Myotis septentrionalis	Northern Long-eared Bat
Myotis evotis	Long-eared Bat
Myotis volans	Long-legged Bat
Myotis ciliolabrum	Western Small-footed Bat
Lasionycteris noctivagans	Silver-haired Bat
Eptesicus fuscus	Big Brown Bat
Lasiurus borealis	Red Bat
Lasiurus cinereus	Hoary Bat

Order: LAGOMORPHA (Pikas, Rabbits, and Hares)

Family: OCHOTONIDAE

Ochotona princeps	Pika

Family: LEPORIDAE

Sylvilagus nuttallii	Nuttall's Cottontail
Lepus americanus	Snowshoe Hare
Lepus townsendii	White-tailed Jack Rabbit

Order: RODENTIA (Rodents)

Family: SCIURIDAE

Tamias minimus	Least Chipmunk
Tamias amoenus	Yellow-pine Chipmunk
Tamias ruficaudus	Red-tailed Chipmunk
Marmota monax	Woodchuck

Marmota flaviventris	Yellow-bellied Marmot
Marmota caligata	Hoary Marmot
Spermophilus richardsonii	Richardson's Ground Squirrel
Spermophilus columbianus	Columbian Ground Squirrel
Spermophilus tridecemlineatus	Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel
Spermophilus franklinii	Franklin's Ground Squirrel
Spermophilus lateralis	Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
Sciurus carolinensis	Gray Squirrel[1]
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus	Red Squirrel
Glaucomys sabrinus	Northern Flying Squirrel
Family: GEOMYIDAE	
Thomomys talpoides	Northern Pocket Gopher
Family: HETEROMYIDAE	
Perognathus fasciatus	Olive-backed Pocket Mouse
Dipodomys ordii	Ord's Kangaroo Rat
Family: CASTORIDAE	
Castor canadensis	Beaver
Family: CRICETIDAE	
Reithrodontomys megalotis	Western Harvest Mouse
Peromyscus maniculatus	Deer Mouse
Onychomys leucogaster	Northern Grasshopper Mouse
Neotoma cinerea	Bushy-tailed Woodrat
Clethrionomys gapperi	Southern Red-backed Vole
Phenacomys intermedius	Heather Vole
Microtus pennsylvanicus	Meadow Vole
Microtus longicaudus	Long-tailed Vole
Microtus xanthognathus	Yellow-cheeked Vole
Microtus ochrogaster	Prairie Vole
Microtus richardsoni	Water Vole
Lagurus curtatus	Sagebrush Vole
Ondatra zibethicus	Muskrat
Lemmus sibiricus	Brown Lemming
Synaptomys borealis	Northern Bog Lemming
Family: MURIDAE	
Rattus rattus	Black Rat[2]
Rattus norvegicus	Norway Rat[2]
Mus musculus	House Mouse[2]

Order: RODENTIA (Rodents) - cont.	
Family: ZAPODIDAE	
Zapus hudsonius	Meadow Jumping Mouse
Zapus princeps	Western Jumping Mouse
Family: ERETHIZONTIDAE	
Erethizon dorsatum	Porcupine
Order: CARNIVORA (Carnivores)	
Family: CANIDAE	
Canis latrans	Coyote
Canis lupus	Gray Wolf
Alopex lagopus	Arctic Fox
Vulpes vulpes	Red Fox
Vulpes velox	Swift Fox[3]
Urocyon cinereoargenteus	Gray Fox[4]
Family: URSIDAE	
Ursus americanus	Black Bear
Ursus arctos	Grizzly Bear
Family: PROCYONIDAE	
Procyon lotor	Raccoon
Family: MUSTELIDAE	
Martes americana	Marten
Martes pennanti	Fisher
Mustela erminea	Ermine
Mustela nivalis	Least Weasel
Mustela frenata	Long-tailed Weasel
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret[5]
Mustela vison	Mink
Gulo gulo	Wolverine
Taxidea taxus	Badger
Mephitis mephitis	Striped Skunk
Lutra canadensis	River Otter
Family: FELIDAE	
Felis concolor	Cougar
Lynx canadensis	Canada Lynx
Lynx rufus	Bobcat

Order: ARTIODACTYLA (Deer, Pronghorn, Bovids)

Family: CERVIDAE	
Cervus elaphus	Wapiti
Odocoileus hemionus	Mule Deer
Odocoileus virginianus	White-tailed Deer
Alces alces	Moose
Rangifer tarandus	Caribou
Family: ANTILOCAPRIDAE	
Antilocapra americana	Pronghorn
Family: BOVIDAE	
Bison bison	Bison
Oreamnos americanus	Mountain Goat
Ovis canadensis	Bighorn Sheep

Notes:

1. Deliberate introduction by people.
2. Accidental introduction by people.
3. Native population extinct. The present population occurs as a result of a restocking program.
4. Single specimen record.
5. No longer occurs in Alberta.

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